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LETTER

FROM

Sir *Anthony Ashley Cooper*, *Thomas Scot*, *Jo. Berners*, and *John Weaver* Esquires:

Delivered to the

Lord Fleetwood:

OWNING

Their late Actions in endeavouring to secure the *Tower* of *London*, for the better Service of the City and Commonwealth.

Printed in the Year 1659.

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FROM

Sir *Anthony Ashley Cooper*, *Thomas Scot*, *Io. Berners*, and *John Weaver* Esquires, delivered to the Lord *Fleetwood*:

Owning their late Actions in endeavouring to secure the *Tower* of *London*, for the better Service of the *City* and *Common-wealth*.

SIR,

UNderstanding you have received some disturbance of late, in examining divers persons about a Design to surprize the Tower; to save your further trouble, we doe hereby freely own our utmost and hearty endeavours to have put that place into more faithfull and confiding hands, and that by Authority from the Council of State, who, at the passing of that Resolve, had the

ſole Legall Power from the *Parliament*, of ordering, directing, and diſpoſing of all the Garritons and Forces of this Common-wealth, both by Sea and Land; An Action ſo Honeſt and Honourable, as would not onely have given check to your Exorbitances at *Wallingford Houſe*, and *White-Hall*, but was Almoſt neceſſary to the preſerving the Peace and Safety of this great City, by giving advantage to them, to put themſelves into a Regular Poſture of Defence, and ſuch an Encouragement to the ſober Party amongſt them, as would (through God's Mercy) have utterly defeated the Deſigns of the Common Enemy.

Sir, Let us tell you, this Deſgne was not ſo vain but that we had (by the bleſſing of God) poſſeſt that place ſome weeks ſince, had we not been fruſtrated by our miſtake in the Courage and Fidelity of a Perſon, whoſe Opportunity, Intereſt, and Duty, (if not Principles) gave us better hopes: But in this Age we are to complain and wonder at nothing, yet we cannot but highly reſent the Confidence of ſending for one of our number by a party of Souldiers; As if Red-coats and Muskets were a *Non Obſtante* to all Law and publique Priviledge, not as if that Perſon, or any of us, are afraid or aſhamed to own the Enterprize, before any that have a lawful Authority to demand an account of it; which, we are ſure no Single Perſon, *Junto*, or Pack of Men, at *White-Hall*, or *Wallingford-Houſe*, have a pretence to.

Sir, We have the witneſſe with our own Spirits, that we have and doe Cordially wiſh the preſervation and good of you and your Family, but if the Lord hath ſaid, you ſhall not hearken, but be hardned in your way, we muſt acquieſce in his Providence, and with ſorrow look upon that Ruine which is flowing in upon you, as upon one in whom we thought we had ſeen ſome good.

Sir,

Sir, consider that in the day of trouble, which is certainly comming upon you, what support you will have to your spirit when you shall be assaulted with the shame you have brought upon God's People, with the breach of Faith to the Parliament, from whom you received your Commission; with the ruine you have brought upon your native Countrey (unlesse the Lord by his own Almighty Arm prevent it), and with the misery you have led the poor Soldiers into; who instead of being the Instruments of securing and settling the Peace and Liberty of these Nations, enjoying the honour and quiet thereof, their arreares fully paid, future pay and advancement settled and established, in order, and with the blessing of their Countreymen, are now become the Instruments of nine men's ambition, have made the whole Nation their enemies, and are exposed again to the hardship and hazard of a new unnaturall War, without prospect of ever hoping that the issue of these affaires can leave their new Masters so rich (though conquerors) as to satisfie their arreares, or so secure as to trust preferment in any hands but such whose fanatick principles or personall relations makes them irreconcileable to the publick Interest: But God (we trust) has raised up a deliverer, having by admirable providence put an opportunity and power into the hands of Generall *Monk*, the ablest and most experienced Commander of these Nations, whom he hath also spirited to stand firm for the Interest of this Commonwealth; as well against a Rebellious party of our own Forces, as the designes of the common enemy (notwithstanding all causelesse and false aspersions maliciously cast upon him); being warranted in his present actings by especial Commission and Authority from the Council of State, whereas yours is that only of the Sword. Our prayers and earnest request for you, and all honest men amongst you, are, That you may timely joyn with him, and par-

partake of the honour and blessing of his actions, and your true repentance shall be a greater rejoycing, than your desection was a trouble. When providence shall have separated the precious from the vile, and not have suffered our scumme to boyl in, but shall have placed the Sword and Civil Authority in the hands of men of the best and sobereſt principles.

Sir, be not so farre deceived as to think sober men see not through the mask of this strange new Parliament, whose Liberty and safety, either of meeting or debating, must be at your pleasures; who having taken upon you, to be Conservators of the Cause, will onely make use of them as your Assessours and Tax-gatherers: The present interrupted Parliament being the sole lawfull Authority, and which can onely be hoped to make the Sword subservient to the Civil Interest, and settle the Government in the hands of the People, by successive and free Parliaments lawfully derived to them.

Sir, we have in sincerity given you our sense, and shall leave you to him that disposes of all mens hearts, and remain

December 16
1659.

Your Servants so far as you shall be found to serve the publick.

For the Lord *Fleetwood* late Lieutenant Generall of the Army.

Anth. Ashley Cooper,
Thomas Scot,
Jo. Berners,
John Weaver.